

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 5 and amend claims 1-4 and 6-12 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing telephony services through the Internet, the method comprising steps of:

by a host connected to a phone line, providing access to the phone line through the internet;

by a server available through the Internet, communicating with the host and with clients through the Internet to provide clients access to phone services via the phone line.

2. (Currently amended) A server computer accessible through the Internet, the server computer providing-configured to provide access control to a remote client that accesses phone services through a host computer to provide the remote client with phone services available at the host computer.

3. (Currently amended) The server of claim 2, wherein the server computer provides-is configured to provide one or more of the following services: authentication, tunneling, initiation of peer-to-peer communication, routing, directory, directory search, and access rights.

4. (Currently amended) A host computer having access to a local phone service and an Internet connection, the host computer configured to provide Internet server-enabled access to the local phone service via an internet connection by permitting a client to utilize the local phone service.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The host of claim 4, wherein [[the]] a ~~the~~ server controls client access to the host.

7. (Currently amended) The host of claim [[2]]6, wherein the server ~~provides-is configured to provide~~ one or more of the following services: directory search, voicemail and missed calls, call answering, and call initiation.

8. (Currently amended) A client device enabled to access a local phone service of a host computer through an Internet connection controlled by a server computer, the client device having functions for requesting access to the local phone service, and for performing communications through an established connection.

9. (Currently amended) The client of claim 8, wherein the client device ~~provides-is configured to provide~~ one or more of the following services: phone line interface, authentication, verification, call forwarding, call answering, voice mail and missed calls, and local-call routing.

10. (~~Currently amended~~) A system for providing phone services to Internet users through the Internet, the system comprising:

one or more host computers, each host computer having access to a local phone service; and

at least one server that controls access between said one or more host computers and phone service clients seeking to access phone services through the Internet.

11. (Currently amended) A business method, the method comprising charging clients for access to ~~the-a~~ system comprising one or more host computers, each host computer having access to a local phone service; and at least one server that controls access between said one or more host computers and phone service clients seeking to access phone services through the Internet ~~of claim 10;~~ and permitting the access via client devices.

12. (Currently amended) A business method, the method comprising providing virtual local phone service for a fee by providing a simulation of local

phone service to remote ~~clients~~ client devices through the Internet via a plurality of  
host computers connected to local phone services.